



NEWS RELEASE FROM SOUTHWEST DIVISION ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Hunters Point Shipyard Draft Final Historical Radiological Assessment Available

SAN DIEGO -- (FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004) -- The U.S. Department of the Navy has issued the Draft Final Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA) for Hunters Point Shipyard (HPS) to regulatory agencies and the public for review and comment. The Navy conducted the HRA as part of its program to investigate and clean up residual radioactive materials left from past shipyard operations. The HRA documents historical radiological operations, assesses the impact of these operations on HPS and provides a baseline document for investigating the presence of residual radioactive materials by recommending future actions necessary for unrestricted release of radiologically impacted sites. These efforts will result in the thorough identification and removal of residual radioactive materials at HPS. The public is encouraged to review and provide substantive comments on the report; comments may be submitted to the Navy now through April 27, 2004.

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During the preparation of the HRA, the Navy's Radiological Affairs Support Office (RASO) studied past radiological operations that introduced general radioactive materials or "G-RAM" to HPS, including shipyard operations and research conducted by the Radiation Laboratory ("Rad Lab") and its successor, the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL). These operations included the handling and refurbishment of radioluminescent devices (such as gauges, dials, watches and ship's deck markers), decontamination of Operation Crossroads ships, development and calibration of radiation survey instruments, and radiological experimentation.

The HRA identifies sites at HPS as "impacted" or "non-impacted." A site is designated as impacted when the possibility exists that radioactive materials may have been used, stored or disposed of at the site. All impacted sites will be assessed to determine the type and extent of any residual radioactive material. This will be followed by cleanup actions that will remove radioactive contamination to standards that will allow the unrestricted future use of the site. During the assessments and cleanup actions, the Navy will ensure that all federal and state health and safety standards and precautions are followed in order to protect the workers, shipyard tenants, the general public and the environment.

The Navy will be holding an Information Day on Saturday, March 20, 2004, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the public to learn about the purpose, content and findings of the HRA. RASO, the author of the report, as well as other Navy staff members, will be present to answer questions. The Information Day will be held at the Earl P. Mills Auditorium, located at 100 Whitney Young Circle, San Francisco, CA 94124.

Keith Forman, the Navy's Environmental Coordinator for HPS, said the Navy is highly committed to thoroughly cleaning up HPS and ensuring that the public and the environment are safe.

"The Draft Final HRA provides a comprehensive and accurate assessment of past radiological activities at HPS," Forman said. "This report will provide the foundation that will allow the Navy to thoroughly clean up residual radioactive material and ensure the long-term protection of the community and the environment."

The public is encouraged to review the Draft Final HRA and all project documents related to the cleanup and restoration of HPS. The Navy makes all documents available to the public at the information repositories at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco and at the Bayview / Anna E. Waden Branch Library, 5075 Third Street, San Francisco; or call (415) 415-557-4500 x5075 / (415) 715-4100 for library hours.

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